

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sealing a package having an open end, the apparatus comprising:

at least one pair of sealing halves, both of the sealing halves being reciprocally movable so that the two sealing halves move towards one another from an open position to a closed sealing position and move away from one another from the closed sealing position toward the open position, one of the sealing halves comprising sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of the package when the sealing halves are in the closed sealing position,

forming means for forming the package comprising a pair of forming flaps, each forming flap being associated with a respective one of the sealing halves and each forming flap possessing a first end pivotally attached to a support such that each forming flap pivots relative to the sealing means;

each forming flap being directly pushed by the respective sealing half during movement of the respective sealing half towards the closed sealing position to pivotally move each of the forming flaps toward the package to press two opposing portions of the package towards each other.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the forming flaps is adapted to be pivoted from a first essentially vertical

position to a second angled position in which the second end of each forming flap is in contact with a portion adjacent the open end of each package.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the forming flaps is biased, such that it is kept in its first essentially vertical position when the sealing halves are in their open position.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least three pairs of linkage arrangements including a first pair of linkage arrangements with two reciprocally movable halves provided with pressing means for pressing on opposing portions of the package at a distance from the open end thereof, a second pair of linkage arrangements that include the forming flaps for forming each package adjacent the open end thereof, and a third pair of linkage arrangements that include the one pair of halves which are reciprocally movable between the open and closed positions.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of the forming flaps is attached at its first end to one end of a respective upstanding arm.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein each of the forming flaps is biased by a spring, which is operatively connected to the first end of each of the forming flaps.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the forming flaps is attached at its first end to an upper side of a respective upstanding arm.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the forming flaps is generally T-shaped and oriented such that the second end of the flap forms the overhead horizontal leg of the T.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the three pairs of linkage arrangements for sealingly closing the open end of each package are vertically spaced apart, so that the movable halves of the linkage arrangements are freely movable in relation to each other during sealing and closing of each package.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the third pair of linkage arrangements including the sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of each package is placed at a vertical distance from each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements, which vertical distance is adapted so that the flap is pivoted by the two halves of the third pair of linkage arrangements from its first essentially vertical position to its second angled position for pressing two opposing portions of the package towards each other.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for sealing a package having an open end, the apparatus comprising:

at least one pair of sealing halves, which are reciprocally movable between an open position and a closed sealing position, one of the sealing halves comprising sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of the package,

forming means for forming the package comprising a pair of forming flaps, each forming flap being associated with a sealing half and each forming flap possessing a first end pivotally attached to a support, each forming flap being directly pushed by the associated sealing half during at least part of the reciprocal movement of the associated sealing half to pivotally move the forming flap toward the package,

the forming flaps during the movement of the sealing halves towards the closed sealing position pressing two opposing portions of the package towards each other,

at least three pairs of linkage arrangements including a first pair of linkage arrangements with two reciprocally movable halves provided with pressing means for pressing on opposing portions of the package at a distance from the open end thereof, a second pair of linkage arrangements that include the forming flaps for forming each package adjacent the open end thereof, and a third pair of linkage arrangements that include the one pair of halves which are reciprocally movable between the open and closed positions,

wherein the first pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a first carrier movably provided on a guide,

the second pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a second carrier movably provided on said guide, and

the third pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a third carrier movably provided on said guide, and the first, second and third carriers are connected to a cam curve disc.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the first pair of linkage arrangements comprises an arm which in a first end is provided with the pressing means for pressing on a portion of the package at a distance from the open end thereof and which in a second end is pivotably connected to the first carrier by a link, and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements comprises a first and a second arm,

which first and second arms being connected to each other in first ends thereof and provided with the forming means for forming each package adjacent the open end thereof,

which first arm in a second end is pivotably connected to the second carrier by a link and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point, and

which second arm in a second end is fixed and which in between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the third pair of linkage arrangements comprises an arm which in a first end is provided with the sealing means for closing and sealing the open end of each package and which in a second end is pivotably connected to the third carrier by a link, and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the third carrier is connected to the cam curve disc via a fourth carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the fourth carrier is connected to the third carrier via an actuation member, which actuation member is adapted to change the mutual distance between the third and fourth carriers along the guide for biasing the sealing means for closing and sealing the open end of each package.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the fixed pivot point of the first arm is arranged substantially at the same distance from the forming means in a vertical direction as the fixed second end of the second arm, so that the pivotable portion of the first arm is longer than the pivotable portion of the second arm.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the fixed pivot point of the arm of each half of the first linkage arrangements and the fixed pivot point of the arm of each half of the third linkage arrangements are

arranged substantially at the fixed pivot point of the first arm and the fixed second end of the second arm of each half of the second linkage arrangements in the vertical direction.

19-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of package engaging members adapted to engage the package from opposite sides of the package, each of the forming flaps being mounted for pivoting movement relative to a respective one of the package engaging members.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each package engaging member is U-shaped to engage plural sides of the package.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each forming flap is pivotally mounted on the respective package engaging member.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for sealing a package having an open end, the apparatus comprising:

at least one pair of sealing halves reciprocally movable between an open position and a closed sealing position, one of the halves comprising sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of the package while the at least one pair of sealing halves are in the closed sealing position;

forming means for forming the package adjacent the open end of the package, the forming means comprising a pair of forming flaps positioned below the sealing means, each forming flap being associated with a sealing half, each forming flap possessing a first end pivotally attached to a support and a second end adapted to follow the reciprocal movement of the associated sealing half; and

the forming flaps and the sealing halves being positioned relative to one another such that during the movement of the sealing halves towards the closed sealing position, each of the sealing halves moves from being out of contact with the forming flaps to being in contact with a portion of one of the forming flaps to move the forming flaps into contact with two opposing portions of the package to press the two opposing portions of the package towards each other.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising a frame and a motor, the frame comprising a plate-shaped member in a middle section of the frame, the motor being positioned vertically below the plate-shaped member and connected to a rotatably mounted cam disk which is rotatably driven through operation of the motor, the cam disk being positioned vertically below the plate-shaped member.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a vertically oriented guide, a carrier slidably mounted on the guide and operatively engaged with the cam disk so that rotation of the cam disk results in sliding movement of the carrier along the guide, and a link operatively connected between the carrier and at least one of the sealing halves to transmit sliding

movement of the carrier produced by rotation of the cam disk into movement of the at least one of the sealing halves.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a vertically oriented guide, a carrier slidably mounted on the guide and operatively engaged with the cam disk so that rotation of the cam disk results in sliding movement of the carrier along the guide, and a link operatively connected between the carrier and at least one of the forming flaps to transmit sliding movement of the carrier produced by rotation of the cam disk into pivoting movement of the at least one sealing flap.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a frame and a motor, the frame comprising a plate-shaped member in a middle section of the frame, the motor being positioned vertically below the plate-shaped member and connected to a rotatably mounted cam disk which is rotatably driven through operation of the motor, the cam disk being positioned vertically below the plate-shaped member.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a vertically oriented guide, a carrier slidably mounted on the guide and operatively engaged with the cam disk so that rotation of the cam disk results in sliding movement of the carrier along the guide, and a link operatively connected between the carrier and at least one of the sealing halves to transmit sliding

movement of the carrier produced by rotation of the cam disk into movement of the at least one of the sealing halves.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a vertically oriented guide, a carrier slidably mounted on the guide and operatively engaged with the cam disk so that rotation of the cam disk results in sliding movement of the carrier along the guide, and a link operatively connected between the carrier and at least one of the forming flaps to transmit sliding movement of the carrier produced by rotation of the cam disk into pivoting movement of the at least one sealing flap.